

means for bending an elongated bag-making film into a tubular form around said chute and causing side edges of said film to be mutually overlapped;

a heater unit for longitudinally sealing said mutually overlapping side edges of said film;

an air cylinder both for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute and for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute;

air-pressure generating means for generating from a single air source having an initial air pressure both a specified higher air pressure for moving said heater unit and a specified lower air pressure, lower than said higher air pressure, for controlling said compressive force; and

switching means for selectively switching between supplying to said air cylinder said higher pressure to thereby move said heater unit with respect to said film and supplying to said air cylinder said lower pressure to thereby control said compressive force.

18. (Amended) A packaging machine comprising:

a cylindrical chute;

means for bending an elongated bag-making film into a tubular form around said chute and causing side edges of said film to be mutually overlapped;

a heater unit for longitudinally sealing said mutually overlapping side edges of said film;

an air cylinder for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute;

control means for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute, said control means varying said